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Global geodetic reference frame

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Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared jointly by the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific and the International Association of Geodesy, which is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the way forward for the international community, under the coordination of the United Nations, to work with all stakeholders to improve intergovernmental coordination for a sustained operational global geodetic reference frame and infrastructure.

Summary of the report

At its second session, held in August 2012, the Committee of Experts recognized the importance of a global geodetic reference frame and the need to maintain national positioning infrastructure, and requested the Secretariat to consult with global experts and to report to it on progress made in that regard. The report describes the outcomes of the consultations held with Member States, including: an informal consultation convened on the margins of the nineteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 29 October to 1 November 2012; a special session on the global geodetic reference frame convened during the second High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management, held in Doha, Qatar, from 4 to 6 February 2013; and a

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questionnaire distributed to Member States and regional organizations on the present status and role of Governments in adopting and maintaining a globally connected geodetic reference frame. The report provides an analysis and summary of the questionnaire responses received from more than 97 countries and considers a road map for future action for strengthening the global geodetic infrastructure, including identifying pathways for improved infrastructure development and geodetic data sharing.